State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0043 Phone (208)334-4250 FAX # (208)334-4398 WILLIAM W. DEAL Director

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tricia Carney 208-334-4312

PC Possible

BOISE ID – The Idaho Department of Insurance SHIBA Program (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) is launching its new PC Possible program, bringing cutting edge technology through the use of computers into senior centers throughout Idaho.

PC Possible gives senior centers the opportunity to provide onsite Medicare assistance through trained SHIBA volunteers. Seniors will have internet access for Medicare information on MyMedicare.Gov. Genii Hamilton, SHIBA director, hopes to furnish computer labs for 120 senior centers throughout Idaho. "Some rural communities have no other access to SHIBA counseling," said Hamilton.

SHIBA will use federal grant money to furnish computers, printers and internet access to centers. Dell Inc. has partnered with SHIBA to provide equipment at a discounted price as well as technical support for these centers.

Senior centers receiving the computers will be required to provide a volunteer who will be trained by SHIBA to counsel seniors on Medicare issues. Centers must also provide counseling space and have their site listed on the 2-1-1 care line. When these computers are not being used for counseling, seniors will be able to use them for other purposes.

Early in February, letters were mailed to senior centers throughout the state explaining PC Possible. In response to the letters, Hamilton says plans are under way to have 50 computer counseling sites set up by the end of March and more sites in the coming months.

PC Possible was the brainchild of a SHIBA volunteer in the Caldwell senior center. The volunteer acquired donations of computers and equipment from local businesses to set up the first senior computer lab.

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